

detecting the operational condition of the vehicle; and
automatically opening the trunk of the vehicle in response to a predefined safe
operational condition of the vehicle and the detection of the living organism in the trunk.

sub.C1 5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further including the steps of providing a
lighted switch in the trunk; and having a person in the trunk manually activate the switch to
open the trunk from the inside.

B2 6. (Amended) The method of claim 17, further including the steps of providing a
lighted switch in the trunk; and having a person in the trunk manually activate the switch to
open the trunk from the inside.

7. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, including a lighted switch disposed in
the trunk for manually opening the trunk from the inside.

sub.C1 16. (Twice Amended) A method for determining the presence of a living
organism in an enclosure, comprising the steps of:

B3 ventilating the enclosure to ambient air and automatically sensing a base line
concentration of CO₂ in the vented enclosure;

closing the enclosure to ambient air and automatically sensing an increase in
the concentration of CO₂ above said base line concentration for a predetermined time after
the enclosure is closed to ambient air; and

complement of
base line

providing a rescue operation in response to detecting CO₂ above said base line concentration which is consistent with what would be produced by respiration of a living organism in the closed enclosure.

B4 sub. C1 19. (Amended) The method of claim 16, further including the step of detecting the presence of a living organism when the concentration of CO₂ in the closed enclosure exceeds the base line concentration of CO₂ by a predetermined amount for a predetermined time.

B5 sub. C1 21. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, including means for sensing the movement of the vehicle and means for opening the trunk when a person is sensed in the trunk and the vehicle is stopped.

sub. C1 27. (Amended) A method for controlling a vehicle having a compartment that is opened and closed, comprising the steps of:

Bp
detecting the presence of a respiring living organism in the closed compartment of the vehicle;
detecting the operational condition of the vehicle; and
automatically opening the compartment of the vehicle to ambient air in response to a predefined operational condition of the vehicle and the detection of the living organism in the compartment.

28. (Amended) A method for controlling a vehicle having a trunk that is opened and closed, comprising the steps of:

detecting the presence of a respiring living organism in the closed trunk of the vehicle;

detecting the operational condition of the vehicle;

automatically selecting at least one of a plurality of alarms based upon the operational condition of the vehicle and the detected presence of the living organism in the trunk; and

activating the at least one selected alarm.

29. (Amended) A method for controlling a vehicle having a trunk that is selectively opened and closed, comprising the steps of:

detecting the presence of a respiring living organism in the closed trunk of the vehicle; and

automatically opening the trunk in response to at least detecting the living organism in the trunk.

30. (Amended) A method for detecting an unsafe condition within a trunk of a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

disposing a living organism within the closed trunk of the vehicle; and

detecting the respiration of the living organism in the trunk.

sub. C1
31. (New) A detection system for use within a vehicle of the type having a trunk which is selectively movable between an open and a closed position, said detection system being adapted to detect the presence of a breathing individual within said trunk, said detection system comprising:

bn
a breathing detector which is disposed within said trunk, which is adapted to detect the breathing of said individual, and which generates a signal upon the detection of said breathing; and

a controller assembly which is communicatively coupled to said breathing detector, which receives said signal, and which opens said trunk upon receipt of said signal.

32. (New) The detection system of claim 31, wherein carbon dioxide is emitted by said individual as said individual breathes and wherein said breathing detector detects the presence of said carbon dioxide within said trunk.

33. (New) The detection system of claim 31, wherein said vehicle is of the further type which includes an ignition switch which may be selectively moved to a certain position and wherein said controller assembly is coupled to said ignition switch, senses said placement of said ignition switch in said certain position, and causes said trunk to be opened in response to said signal from said breathing detector only if said ignition switch is placed in said certain position.

34. (New) The detection system of claim 31, wherein said vehicle is of the type which is selectively driven and wherein said controller assembly prevents said trunk from being open when said vehicle is driven.

35. (New) The detection system of claim 31, further including an illuminated switch which is disposed within said trunk, which is coupled to said controller assembly, and which selectively communicates a second signal to said controller assembly upon being touched.

B7
cont
36. (New) The detection system of claim 35, wherein said controller assembly, upon receipt of said second signal, opens said trunk.

37. (New) The detection system of claim 32, wherein said breathing detector measures the amount of carbon dioxide which is resident within said trunk, stores a certain value, compares said measured amount of carbon dioxide to said certain value, and generates said signal only if said measured amount of said carbon dioxide is greater than said certain value.

38. (New) The detection system of claim 31, wherein said controller assembly further includes a timer which allows said detection system to be operable for a certain period of time.

39. (New) The detection system of claim 31, wherein said individual comprises a child.

40. (New) A method for detecting the presence of a child within a trunk of a vehicle, said method comprising the steps of:

measuring an amount of carbon-dioxide within said trunk of said vehicle; and
using said measured amount of carbon dioxide to determine the presence of said child within said trunk of said vehicle.

B7
cont
41. (New) The method of claim 40, further comprising the step of detecting said presence of said child only when said vehicle is stationary.

42. (New) An assembly for detecting the presence of an individual within a trunk of a vehicle, said assembly comprising:

* a sensor which is mounted within said trunk and that detects the occurrence of at least one bodily function of said individual; and

a controller assembly which is communicatively coupled to said sensor and which provides a signal when said sensor detects the occurrence of at least one bodily function of said individual, wherein said at least one bodily function comprises breathing.

43. (New) The assembly of claim 42, wherein said sensor comprises a carbon dioxide sensor.